

1887

THE USES AND ABUSES
OF
"THE ELECTORAL FRANCHISE."

by J. L. McDougall.

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—« OF »—
“THE ELECTORAL FRANCHISE.”
—

TO THE PEOPLE OF INVERNESS :

When I undertake to place before you the following few observations on the subjects above suggested, you must not think that I am arrogating to myself any special right or ability to address you on public questions. I desire you, also, not to suppose that I am viewing, from afar, any possible self-advantage. The topic with which I am about to deal involves wide, general interests common to us all, and is, besides, closely akin to the official position I happen to hold in the public service of the country. I only wish that the task I propose for myself had fallen into the hands of one of yourselves. There are many among you who command more leisure and influence than I have, and are endowed with gifts of head and graces of pen which I cannot pretend to possess.

A loathing idea sometimes exists, which presupposes the utterances of all public officers on political matters tainted with undue bias. This idea is the product either of jealousy or of fancy. If a man is truthful and wishes well to his country, as a plain, private citizen, there is no danger of him losing his head or heart after he becomes invested with a public trust, unless he is either a knave or a fool, and such characters are happily rare among the Government officials of this country. Some people go so far as to say that a Government officer has no right to even formally express his opinion on things political. A greater mistake could not easily be imagined. It is not only his right, it is his duty, to express, honestly and fearlessly, whatever views he may hold in relation to political affairs. This duty is not confined to Government officers; it extends to all men, and

is really inseparable from a proper realization of the responsibilities of citizenship. Moreover, if we shut out Government officers from a candid discussion of public affairs, we close against ourselves one of the most valuable avenues of information.

THE STUDY OF POLITICS.

The Science of Politics is different from all other sciences, inasmuch as it permeates all our social forces and surroundings. Many of the other sciences are a speculative field for a specially qualified few, but political economy calls out the thoughtful endeavors of all. It exacts the homage of all classes and conditions of society. It has come, indeed, to be regarded as a controlling engine of our civilization. When a foreigner comes among us now-a-days, with intention to settle in the country, one of the first questions he feels called upon to ask, is: "What politics do we have?" He will not have any curious concern in our religion, our language, our nationality, or our climate; but he will be concerned in our politics, because no man can escape the demands of a science that is practically universal in all the walks of life. If we would have a peaceable, prosperous, well-governed country, our people, old and young, rich and poor—each according to his means and mental vision—must make a careful study of politics.

HOW TO LEARN POLITICS.

A man who wishes to acquire any political merit, must, at the outset, strive to be an active, useful member of society. Some writer has said that one of the first requisites to success in life, is, "to be a good animal." The primary requisite to the success of a politician is, *to be a good, industrious citizen*. It goes without saying, that the man who knows his own business and attends to it, is much better prepared to learn and appreciate sound principles of political economy, than is he who neglects his own, and is constantly carping at the business of somebody else, or what is, perhaps, nobody's business. You will generally find that the men who cannot be induced to mind their own affairs,

and who are profoundly lacking in knowledge of the ordinary economics, are those who will propound the most monstrous and impossible problems for political organizations to solve. They want Governments to do things that should not and cannot be done. These constitute the vast bulk of the *chronic grumblers*. On the other hand, the quiet practical men, who recognize the wisdom of "earning their bread by the sweat of their brow," will seldom, if ever, expect unreasonable things of or from the State powers. Such men are, consequently, not often disappointed. They are rational in their requirements, and their minds are always in a good condition to learn.

In our search for political truth, what should be our principal sources of information? This is an interesting interrogatory, to which I should much rather receive than give an answer. The press is usually a very excellent means of conveying general information. I regret to note, however, that excessive warmth of party zeal frequently destroys the value of any information we derive from some of the party newspapers of this country. Especially is this true during the fuss and fermentation of an election combat. Papers and persons who, at other times, are scrupulously honest and accurate in what they say, appear, in the heat of contest, to be purposely oblivious to all moral responsibility. Take up a strong party newspaper on the eve of an election, read it with an earnest desire for information; then peruse the sparkling columns of one of the opposite journals, and tell me how much solid, reliable knowledge you have acquired by the operation? You will learn nothing good by such a process; you may try, and try again, but all your efforts will be labor lost—

"The toil of dropping buckets into empty wells,
And growing old in drawing nothing up."

I do not mean to say that all our newspapers are thus reckless and misleading. My reference only applies to violent party organs. But, strange though it be, these are the very papers that people delight to read at election times. There can be no hope of ever establishing a sound, healthy public sentiment, so

long as our people continue to draw their inspiration from such sources. If I had an advice to give you, I should tell you to close your eyes, and the doors of your houses, against those wild party journals, for some months preceding every election. If you did this, you would soon compel such papers to pay court to that proverbial love of truth which everywhere pervades our unassuming yeomanry. There are wild party men as well as wild party papers;—we don't have such men in this county, but we read of them. They are equally unsafe, as a source of information. There is something both amusing and annoying in the cool assurance with which candidates, and canvassers, and penny-orators will, sometimes, undertake to instruct an audience on a certain subject which the audience understands much better than they do themselves. For the purpose of illustration, let us imagine one of the stumping Ciceros of the country, before a strange assemblage of farmers, elucidating, in his own beautiful fashion, the glorious effects of the National Policy upon the very farmers he is addressing. He will tell them how their industry is prospering, and will prosper, under the ægis and influence of that beneficent policy; how excellent and accessible are their new-made markets; how easy it is for them to live; how rapidly and unconsciously they are making money; and, by way of a soul-captivating climax, he will exclaim that Fortune alone can estimate the huge accumulations of wealth that are growing and gathering around them every day. At the same time there may not be, among that whole crowd of honest, toil-worn farmers, one single man who has money enough to buy for himself a pair of new suspenders. The endeavor to make people appreciate the good things they have, is, indeed, praiseworthy; but it is bootless absurdity to try and make us believe we are eating beefsteak and bacon when we have nothing but herring—probably red-herring.

But there is another class of campaign tooters, who, like the dentists, are always "looking down in the mouth." They wear long, made-to-order faces, with eyes sunk deep into their heads, and a voice that portends at once a harrowing tale of distress, despair, and death. *They* will tell the same audience that the

National Policy is the most prodigious abomination that ever cursed the earth; that no farmer can look at it and live; that it carries in its train all species of dire calamities, from the weevil to the Asiatic Cholera; and that our dear Dominion is reduced to the woeful condition of those afflicted countries where "there is nobody living, and there is a funeral every day."

Besieged by such conflicting and extravagant opinions, what are the poor farmers to do? In such a case, there is one authority to which we must appeal. It is within the reach of us all, and it is infallible as far as it goes. What is it? Simply *our own experience*. This is a teacher that seldom deceives. If a farmer wishes to know what are the effects of any policy, or political line of action, upon his calling, his circumstances—his very living, in fact—his own silent experience will explain it to him more clearly and correctly than any power of lungs or language. If he wants to find out how it affects the fishing industry, let him consult the fisherman, whose experience can tell. To ascertain the bearings of the same policy on our mining interests, we must talk to the practical miner, who will give the answer of experience.

I am quite aware that, now and anon, new movements will be set on foot, and great popular Reforms agitated, which may be foreign to our experience. In that event, we should cast about and see if any other country, under somewhat similar conditions, has had experience from which we can borrow a lesson. If we find no experience to fall back upon, we can only endeavor to learn all we can from other sources, such as Official Records; the Independent and moderate Press; politicians of character and mature views; men of education and standing, not in politics; and, generally, all the acknowledged leaders of thought. We must be careful not to postpone our efforts to gain information until an election is coming off. When the country is calm and quiet, when there is no excitement, contention or party strife to cloud and confuse our judgment, that is the time for us to inquire into, analyse, and study the nature, color and condition of our political concerns.

If we thus fortify ourselves with a reasonable knowledge of the actual condition and practical requirements of the country, in senses political, we shall be able to use and exercise the franchise as becometh a free and wise people. We will then be morally sure to commit our political destinies to the proper hands; and the whole country will look with awe and confidence to the day we are called out to the polls to issue our constitutional fiat, when

" Bertram's might and Bertram's right,
Will meet on Ellangowan's height."

VOTING.

You must suffer me to say that people, as a rule, do not think enough of their votes and of their voting. This is because sufficient consideration is not given to the objects for which we are expected to vote. No greater State privilege could be conferred upon us than is extended to us, in the liberty to govern ourselves. A grave trust is here confided to our care, which can only be trifled with on pain of damaging consequences. By prudently executing this trust, we prove, in positive manner, our fortunate fitness to take care of ourselves; by imprudently using it, we show precisely the reverse. Suppose that, instead of signifying our views and wishes by ballot, each of us was required to fyle with the Presiding Officer a written opinion, containing an explicit statement of what we know and desire concerning our political rights (?) and relations—the needs of the country, the improvements called for, the changes advisable in the policy of the governing powers, etc., etc.—giving, in every case, the reason for our opinion; would we not, for our own credit, take particular pains to prepare that document? Well, all that we could express in that paper is symbolically embodied in the lead-pencil mark we put upon our ticket in the booth. The decision which we record by our ballots must be reached in the same way, by the same mode of investigation, the same summing up of facts, the same analysis of evidence, the same process of reasoning, the same conclusions of ratiocination, that would lead to a solemn judgment delivered in

writing. An important quality attaching to the verdict of the ballot is, that it is irrevocable. Once given, we cannot recall or modify it, and it is sure to have effect for good or harm. There is, perhaps, no time in our life we hold so much of this wicked little world "in the hollow of our hand," as when we have folded up our ballots on election day. According as our hand, at that moment, is well or ill directed, will the weal or woe of the realm, in a measure, ensue.

It is clear, therefore, that we should take not only a deep interest, but also an intelligent pride, in voting correctly. As you well know, there is nothing more discouraging than to see a mass of human beings, who have opportunities of becoming intelligent, marching, unthinkingly, to the polls, and casting their votes with the same bland indifference with which a toddling child will deposit a five-pound note in the fire, and then stand off to admire the blaze.

THE CANDIDATE.

The selection of a candidate is a thing that should be done with care and deliberation. It is wonderful the facility people sometimes have for turning out candidates at short notice. When a farmer wants to hire a man to make his hay, he will go a long distance to get a person of the right material. When a business man wants a clerk or a book-keeper, he will take every precaution to satisfy himself as to the character, aptitude, habit and general "get-up" of his man before he employs him. If we want a teacher in one of our commonest Common Schools, we require the production of satisfactory references and credentials as a condition precedent to his engagement. And,—coming from the sublime to the ridiculous,—some men will travel thousands of miles to secure a sleek and suitable horse. Yet we occasionally witness the spectacle of trumped-up gentlemen, of whom but little is known—by themselves or others—posing, and accepted without any preliminary inquiry, as candidates for the highest positions in the gift of the people. This is not exactly *comme il faut*. The man chosen to represent us in Parliament, or even aspiring to represent us, should reflect in

himself the honor, the interests, the education and public spirit of the constituency. I think you will all agree that some of our selections of to-day do not profit by comparison with selections made in olden times, whence comes, among others, the venerated name of SIR WILLIAM YOUNG, floating down the breezes of happy memory.

How are we to choose our representatives? That is particularly your business, and I shall only venture to suggest a few of the prominent qualities essential to the fit representative of enlightened people like ourselves.

Firstly, then—He must be an honest man—"the noblest work of God."

Secondly—He must be an educated man of good abilities.

Thirdly—He should be, when possible, a man well acquainted with the people and various interests of the County.

Fourthly—He should be a man of strong intellectual force, and of a high order of talent and industry.

Fifthly—He must have some settled, definite views of politics of a progressive tendency, that can be understood and defended.

Sixthly.—He need not, perhaps, in all cases, necessarily be a Lawyer. There are some clouded, melancholy instances, in which that qualification is dispensed with. *Cui bono?*

People will sometimes run away with the lop-sided notion, that, having nominated their candidate, all the efforts they make to elect him are a purely personal favor to him. To a certain extent this is true; but it is true in a qualified sense. If the man we support is "the right man in the right place," he does as much favor to us by accepting the position as we do to him by permitting and helping him to take it. We must have a higher and a dearer aim in dispensing the suffrage, than the mere personal gratification of the candidate, no matter who he be. Our own good, and the good of the country, should have first place in our minds.

You will hear some people saying that they cannot support such and such a man because his party is out, or going out. That is nonsense. A good man is always worth his face, whether his lot happens to be cast with the dominant or defeated party.

We are told sometimes that our motto should be—"measures, not men." I do not believe in that. If both can be combined, all right; if not, give me the man. The best possible guarantee we can have for good measures, is, a good man. A good, capable man will not, knowingly, espouse bad measures; but an unfit man may bungle all the good measures in the world; and if he is possessed of a good deal of vanity, as inferior men generally are, he may take it into his head, some day, to give the world itself a wrong twist.

It is important to bear in mind, that, although the act of voting is, in one respect, a public duty, yet it entails an individual obligation on every single person who is qualified to enjoy the franchise. An elector is bound, in duty, to lend his influence and support to the candidate most deserving, quite regardless of what others may do. There are those who will decline to sustain a certain candidate for the reason that their ancestors, their friends, and their neighbors, were and are opposed to him. This is wrong. Our ancestors might have pursued what they believed the best course. They acted according to their light. We may be wiser in our day and generation. As to our friends and neighbors, they are entitled to their opinion; but if they are in error, it should be our ambition to convert them into right, and not to follow them into wrong. To oppose a worthy candidate because his return, or that of his party, is doubtful, or because others are prejudiced against him, is a plain reproach on common sense. Every man should do his duty, come what may. No matter how much we may inwardly wish to promote the political purity and welfare of the country, we can never expect to see the fruition of our hopes until every one of us make it a point to vote intelligently, conscientiously, and *independently*.

MIXING ISSUES.

One cannot deprecate too strongly the folly of associating with exclusively provincial questions, the issues that belong to Dominion politics, and *vice versa*. The British North America Act, as we all know, assigns to the Local Legislatures exclusive jurisdiction over a certain class of subjects, and to the Dominion

Parliament exclusive control and authority over a large number of other subjects. So great, indeed, was the reduction made by the Act of Union, in the legislative sphere of the Provinces, that the division of any of our Local Legislatures on political party grounds, is now a thing of doubtful propriety. Do not understand me to imply, however, that the functions remaining to be performed by the provincial authorities are unimportant. To say so would be obviously incorrect. Some of the most necessary branches of the public service fall within the purview of our provincial Administrations. The laws in relation to Education, Municipal institutions in the Province, the maintenance of our Roads and Bridges, and the Administration of Justice, including the constitution and organization of our provincial Courts, are, with many others, subjects that come exclusively within the powers of the Provinces. These are subjects of vital concern to us all, and they form a triumphant answer to those who say that our local legislative bodies have nothing of consequence to attend to. There is plenty to tax their best attention, without interfering with matters constitutionally consigned to other hands and authorities. The same observation holds good in respect of the Parliament of Canada. All unnecessary friction between the Provincial and Federal powers should be avoided. Of course, all the several sections of the country have individual rights and interests which must be asserted and guarded, but the supreme desideratum is to promote the order, progress, and contentment of "one harmonious whole." An undue assertion of the individuality often results in mischief.

PARTY ALLEGIANCE.

I have often thought that we would be spared a great deal of annoyance if this party system of conducting our affairs did not exist. The system may not be an evil *per se*; perhaps it is the abuse of it that bothers us. Certain it is that we must have some mode or principle of government, and this one appears to be inherent in the institutions of our country. Another might be worse. At all events we must make a virtue of necessity, and suffer the ills we have, so far as the system is concerned.

Allegiance to party is necessary, then; but we should not allow it to carry us too far. When we ally ourselves to any political organization, there ought to be good, substantial reasons for our doing so. So long as such reasons continue to exist, we are required to stand by the Shibboleth of that party; but not longer. We have a legal principle which says that "when the reason for the law ceases, the law itself ceases." Political societies, being human in their institution, are all liable to err. When a party falls into error, and persists in its heresy, we should not hesitate to leave its ranks. I am too well aware that the traditions, associations, and name of a party, hold a mighty sway over the minds of many people. This is just what makes the trouble I complain of, in the party system. When a party adopts a mistaken policy, or commits the less excusable mistake of adopting no policy, its adherents will at once feel that there is something wrong; some inaudible sound, like the cosmic harmony of the ancients, will gently admonish them not to swallow that wrong; but yet there is the party, the dear old party, how can they desert it? A strange feeling of unrest comes over them—like a pie-produced nightmare—but they cannot, or rather will not, tell what is the matter with them.

The *name* of a party is no passport to public confidence. We know our parties by their fruits, not by their names. For my own part, I could never see the application or actual significance of the various nomenclatures by which our contending political forces in this country are contradistinguished the one from the other. The terms Whig and Tory, if they meant anything in their origin, were designed to indicate certain qualities and characteristics, fortunately, hard to find in the parties of this country. Those terms were invented in another country, and in turbulent times; and if they were appropriate to the then and there state of things, they are evidently inapplicable in this colony to-day. There is neither rhyme nor reason in my identifying myself with one or other of the present Canadian parties, just because my great-great-grandfather was a Whig or loyal Tory, when it was a popular pastime to chop a King or a Queen's head off.

Seriously speaking, I believe, if the names of our political parties were changed, people would be more apt to support them on their respective merits.

If we profess to belong to one party for good reasons, the evidence of error must be clear and strong, to justify us in severing our connection with that party. Efforts are sometimes made to prejudice the minds of the people against one party, merely to secure blind followers for another. We must be always on the alert for this sort of thing. Those reckless party men—clacquers, I should call them—who will claim all the virtues for themselves, and charge their opponents with all the vices, should not be encouraged among us. Their work is intended for the genius of warmer climates. Let ours be the task of convincing such ranters that we expect politicians and party advocates to bring into the arena of public life, and into the circles of political discussion, the same code of honor and fair play which good people observe and admire in private life. We must not be too prone to suspect our neighbors (even if they are our political opponents) of corrupt doings and designs. If we were half as diligent in our endeavors to see that we ourselves are right, as we are to show that others are wrong, the condition of things would be vastly improved. Prudence requires us, as a matter of course, to examine carefully the cause and conduct of our public men; but we must do it with moderation, with reason, and without prejudice. We must not prejudge their case, or decide against them without calling any witnesses. It is a good principle "to presume every man innocent until his guilt is proved." The day we lose faith entirely in the honor and hearts of each other, even when we are obliged to differ in opinion, that day Society will dissolve into a state of irreclaimable barbarism: *Quod avertat Deus!* We are not to treat others with disrespect, or consider them wicked, because their ways and views do not coincide with ours. It is perfectly proper to argue with them, to instruct them if we can, and point out wherein we think their ideas should be abandoned or modified; but if we cannot convince them by fair force of reason and an honorable species of persuasion, we should leave them alone—in

the hands of Time and Providence. Away, for ever, with that most horrible of all expedients, to which the immortal Gladstone, speaking the other day of Irish grievances, points, as "the figure of *coercion*, bare, bald and gaunt:—alas, too familiar!"

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

You are all aware that the law, both Dominion and local, relating to the Electoral Franchise, requires the names of all the electors to be entered in an official register prepared and kept for that purpose, every year. To prepare the yearly Register of Electors in Inverness, qualified to vote for the election of a Member to serve in the House of Commons in Canada, is now my official duty.

In making those lists I am to consider the latest Assessment Roll in the County my general guide. The Assessment Roll is, however, only *prima facie* evidence of qualification, and it is quite within my power, on other proof, to insert in the list of voters the names of persons who may not appear by the Assessment Roll to reach the requirements of the law. On the other hand, the fact of a man being sufficiently rated on the Assessment Roll is not conclusive evidence that he is entitled to vote, or to be registered as a voter. Our assessors, however, rarely display a weakness to assess people too high. They sin much more frequently on the other side. It will be seen, therefore, that the Assessment Roll is merely taken as an aid, with such other information as the Revising Officer can obtain. My desire is, and the main object of this paper is, to impress you with the desirability of giving me all the correct information possible, outside of the Assessment Roll, touching the qualification of voters, or persons claiming to be placed on the voters' roll. Every person who has a vote, or is claiming a right thereto, ought to feel a deep interest in the making of a good, reliable list; and I am sure I will always receive with gladness any suggestions or assistance from any of you to effect that object. Last year, when preparing and revising the list, I consulted, personally and by correspondence, many of the leading men of the County in respect of persons whose qualification seemed to

be doubtful, and others who could possibly qualify under the extended franchise of the Dominion. I addressed special enquiries to nearly all our clergymen, who, I apprehend, have peculiar opportunities of becoming acquainted with the property and circumstances of people within their parochial supervision. To many of those clerical gentlemen, Catholic and Protestant, I am greatly indebted for much useful information, very kindly and carefully given. I am encouraged to look with hope to their valued assistance again this year.

My work of revision for the current year commences on the first of June. The lists will be printed and published in the same manner as they were last year, on or before the first day of September, and finally revised and certified on or before the first of November. Ample notice will be given of the times and places at which I will hold sittings for the revision of such lists. According to statutory requirements, the assessment lists for the several polling districts are, I presume, posted up in each section. By comparing these with the voters' list used at the last election, you can all see who they are that should be added to the electoral lists of this year. You will be rendering me very welcome assistance by communicating to me, at an early date, any discoveries you may make in that way. Do not be afraid to ask questions, or to demand of me any explanations you may require, in order to the proper understanding of what is necessary to secure the registration of any person not already on the list of voters. I shall be ever ready to give, unto all who may ask for it, whatever information I possess touching the provisions of the Electoral Franchise Act. May I ask you to exchange courtesies as regards what you may know of the qualifications of persons desiring or deserving to be added to the roll of Inverness electors?

Were it not that my paper has already grown beyond tolerable size, I would cite certain clauses of the statute which might be new and interesting to a few of you. Recognizing the fact, also, that law is dry reading, and not very digestible in the Spring of the year, I shall content me with the following synopsis, which will give you an inkling of what is necessary to enable

and entitle a man to have "a voice in the constitution of his country":—

"Every person shall be entitled to be registered in every year upon the list of voters for the proper polling district of any electoral district or portion of an electoral district, and, when so registered, to vote, if such person"—

(1) Is 21 years of age, and not disqualified by any law of Canada ;

(2) Is a British subject by birth or naturalization (or otherwise) ; and

(3) Is the owner of Real property to the value of \$150 ; or

(4) Is a tenant under a lease paying a monthly rental of \$2, or a quarterly rental of \$6, or a yearly rental of \$20, and has been such tenant for a year before his name is placed on the list ;

A change of tenancies within the County will not deprive a tenant of the right to be registered, if there was no intermission of time between the tenancies, and they are such that any one of them would qualify him if he was a year in possession under it ;

(5) Is a resident within the County for one year, having a yearly income of \$300 derived from his earnings, calling, profession, trade or some investment in Canada ;

(6) Is a farmer's son, or the son of an owner of Real property, and residing with his father or with his mother (if father is dead), if the value of the property, if equally divided, is sufficient to give father and son a vote. For instance : if the property is worth \$150, the father alone has a vote ; if worth \$300, the father and one son are qualified to be registered ; if worth \$450, the father and two of his sons can qualify, etc. etc.

In the case of a farmer's son (he is called a farmer's son if his father owns 20 acres of land or more)—otherwise call him owner's son—each such son, to entitle him to vote as such, must have been, from the time his name was put on the list to the time of election at which he tenders his vote, and must then be, a resident with his father (or with his mother after his father's death) ; but

Occasional absence of such son from his father's residence for any period not exceeding six months in the year *next before his name is placed on list of voters*, or any period not exceeding six months subsequent to the last revision of the list, shall not disqualify such son from being placed on the list of voters, or from voting.

The time spent by such son as mariner or fisherman, in the pursuit of either occupation, or as a student at any institution of learning *in Canada*, shall be considered as having been spent at the residence of his father or mother, as the case may be.

The expression "father" in this Act includes grandfather, stepfather, and father-in-law; and the expression "mother" includes grandmother, stepmother, and mother-in-law. The expression "son" includes grandson, stepson, and son-in-law.

(7) Is a fisherman residing in the electoral district (in our case meaning the County), and owns Real property and boats, nets, fishing gear and tackle, within the County, or share or shares in a registered ship, *amounting together* to the value of \$150.

It makes no difference how small is the value of a fisherman's Real property, provided his boats and other gear will make up the \$150. He must, however, own *some* real estate. No amount of personal property will qualify any person except by way of income. I cannot add to the list the name of any applicant of whose property qualifications I have no personal knowledge, unless he makes a declaration by himself, or by somebody for him, before me, or before a magistrate, stating that he is qualified, and how. A man may make application to have his own name, or the name or names of others, added. In order to simplify those applications, I may inform you that I will accept any application made in the following form—and in fact any application made *bona fide*, and properly declared to. I merely suggest this form for your convenience:—

I, of, in the Electoral District of Inverness, hereby apply to have the names of the following persons added to the List of Voters for Polling District No., in the Electoral District of Inverness, for the year 1887, under the Electoral Franchise Act

No.	Name in full.	Occupation.	Post Office Address.	Nature of Qualification.	Description of property, residence, &c., and name of father or owner.
1	Adams, William	Tailor	Mabou	Income	Mabou Bridge.
2	Black, Simon ..	Farmer	Hillsboro...	Owner	Farm at Hillsboro.
3	Cuish, Mc, Allan	Fisherman	Mabou Hr.	Fisherman and owner..	Property at Mabou Hr.
4	Doyle, Frank ..	Printer....	Glendyer ..	Tenant	House & Pt. at Glendyer
5	Eachen, Mc, Jno.	Farmer....	N.E. Mabou	Farmer's son..	Property & farm at N. E. Mabou, Jas. McEachen.

I, of, do hereby solemnly declare that the persons whose names are given above and numbered from 1 to ..., are to my knowledge British subjects above the age of 21 years, and qualified to be registered as voters for the Election of a Member to the House of Commons, in the manner indicated in the columns opposite their respective names, and I make this solemn declaration believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the Act for the Suppression of Voluntary and Extra-judicial Oaths.

Declared to before me at in the County of Inverness,
this day of A. D. 1887.

A. B.

I have written at much greater length than I had intended when I sat down. It is ever thus when one writes upon a large subject without any preconsidered method. The remarks I am just closing were made in the disordered manner in which the drift-wood of the mind always rolls along—not, indeed, with the same smoothness, but with the same never-stopping propensity of Tennyson's Brook. I pray you be indulgent, and "hear me for my cause."

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. McDUGALL.

Mabou, C. B., April 4th, 1887.